

### REMARKS

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114(d), the foregoing amendments are responsive to the Office Action mailed on December 15, 2006. Claims 1, 26, 32 and 45 have been amended and claims 1, 26-38, 40-41, and 45 are pending in this application. Thus, claims 1, 26-38, 40-41, and 45 are presented for examination.

#### Discussion of the Office Action

In the Office Action of December 15, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 26-41, and 45 under 35 U.S.C. §103. The Examiner's response to Applicants' previous arguments note that Applicants have not included the production of solid energetic materials in the body of the claims. Applicants have amended the claims to include the production of solid energetic materials in the body of the claims and submit that such claims are presently in condition for allowance.

#### Discussion of Rejections of Claims 1 and 26-38, 40, 41 and 45 under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 26-38, 40, 41 and 45 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Attia, i.e., US Patent 6,080,281, in view of Barnhard, IV et al, i.e., US Patent 4,058,420 and the article from Science and Technology Review. However, in light of Applicants' amendments to claims 1, 26, 32 and 45, as suggested by the Examiner, and Applicants' previous arguments, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 26-38, 40, 41 and 45 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Attia, i.e., US Patent 6,080,281, in view of Mueller et al, i.e., US Patent 3,730,789, and the article from Science and Technology Review. However, in light of Applicants' amendments to claims 1, 26, 32 and 45, as suggested by the Examiner, and Applicants' previous arguments, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 26-38, 40, 41 and 45 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Katsula et al, i.e., US Patent 4,317,691., in view of Mueller et al, i.e., US Patent 3,730,789, and the article from Science and Technology Review. However, in light of Applicants' amendments to claims 1, 26, 32 and 45, as suggested by the Examiner, and Applicants' previous arguments, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 26-38, 40, 41 and 45 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Katsula et al, i.e., US Patent 4,317,691, in view of Barnhard, IV et al, i.e., US Patent 4,058,420 and the article from Science and Technology Review. However, in light of Applicants' amendments to claims 1, 26, 32 and 45, as suggested by the Examiner, and Applicants' previous arguments, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Summary

Having amended the claims, as discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 26-38, 40-41 and 45 are in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request allowance of such claims .

In the event that the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of these claims that could be clarified with a telephone conference, he is respectfully requested to initiate the same with the undersigned at (925) 422-7820.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan H. Thompson', written over a horizontal line.

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